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is identical with the impulse to activity of its antagonist, was thus excluded. The subject of the experiment contracted or relaxed his masseter muscle upon feeling an electric stimulus upon the wrist, the movements with time curve being recorded upon a revolving drum. The results show practical equality in the two forms of will activity (e.g., the contraction reaction time=.15 sec., the relaxation reaction time=.14 sec.), the slight differences being attributable to the method of experimentation. Exercise shortens both; increase of intensity of stimulus shortens both alike; both are similarly affected by alteration in the intensity and amplitude of the muscle contraction; alcohol at first shortens, then lengthens both; in short, the experiments argue against the dualistic theory of the two processes. If then voluntary impulses and inhibitions are physiologically identical, the anatomical localization of the interference of the two processes must be in the psychomotor centre. The effects of attention were studied, but have not yet been completely formulated.

PSYCHOLOGY.

History of the Owl, continued.—To the readers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST it may not be amiss to know something more of the final history of the two owls, the great horned and the barred, whose habits were described in the January number.

The lively disposition of the "bubo" increased as he grew older, and at times he would jump and fly about his room with a waggish air that was very amusing.

The Syrnum, on the contrary, became more sullen and morose, and seemed to be constantly in the "sulks" about something.

Their combined hootings at early dawn and twilight were music indeed to the ear of a naturalist. Cloudy days or an approaching storm would also excite the barred owl into uttering his peculiar notes; his mate not infrequently joining in the chorus.

One day in March, while driving on the prairie, I shot and winged a fine specimen of the American rough-legged hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sanctijohannis*). Not having time that day to make a specimen of him, I put him for safe keeping in with the owls. The next morning, upon presenting myself at the door, I was greeted by a regular pandemonium of hoots and screeches, which at once struck me as presaging no good to my hawk, and, in fact, the latter was nowhere to be seen.

The peculiar actions of the bubo directed my attention to a dark corner of the building. Going through a peculiar "marking time" motion with his feet, swaying his body from side to side, his head revolving in a circle, he would look at me, and then peer into the corner. Going to this place I discovered my hawk, and a sorry specimen he was; tail pulled out, one wing gone, and presenting a generally dilapidated appearance. The miscreants had killed him, and then dropped his body behind a barrel in this corner. Lifting the body into view, the owls again broke out into excited hootings, saying as plainly as owl language could make it: "We are the fellows that did it." "We killed the bear."

It is well known that some of the hawks and kites will catch and devour reptiles.

One day while the owls were quietly eating their rations of Spoon river suckers, without any warning I threw on the floor beside them a large live pilot snake (*Coluber obsoletus*). The effect was magical, and almost threw them into owl hysterics.

They flew about the room, wildly uttering frightened hootings. The barred finally, much to my discomfiture, perched upon my shoulder, as if seeking my protection; his whole body was in a tremor, and he constantly uttered low, cat-like growls. Nor did their fright and excitement abate until the reptile was removed from their sight. Nor did they soon forget this trick, and for many days afterwards, on my entering their apartments, they would eye me sharply, as if suspicious that there were more snakes about me.

Being unusually busy for several days in early June, the owls were somewhat neglected, and did not receive their usual allowance of "bait." One morning the Syrnum was missing, and a search revealed the fact that he had been killed and eaten by his mate, the bubo, nothing being left of him to tell of his tragic end except the wings and one leg.

Soon after this I gave the great horned his liberty, but he seemed in no hurry to leave the old haunts. For several mornings in succession he would be returned to me by some one of my neighbors, saying that my "hooter" had got loose and was after their chickens; becoming impatient at these nightly raids, they handled him more roughly, and stones and sticks in no gentle hands were used to drive him from their premises. Not fancying this rough usage, he left the town, and I have good reason for believing took up his abode with a family of owls residing in a tract of woods two miles north of the village.—W. S. STRODE, *Bernadotte, Ill.*